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TWELVE OLD HOUSES *West of* CHESAPEAKE BAY

The MONOGRAPH SERIES ON SUBJECTS PERTAINING TO ARCHITECTURE & ALLIED INTERESTS

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TWELVE
OLD HOUSES
WEST OF
CHESAPEAKE BAY

MEASURED DRAWINGS AND TEXT BY
ADDISON F. WORTHINGTON

Edited and published with the purpose of furthering a wider knowledge of the beautiful forms of Domestic Architecture developed during the time of the COLONIES and the early days of the REPUBLIC

PUBLISHED IN BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
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MCMXVIII

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AN OLD VIRGINIA ICE-HOUSE

TWELVE OLD HOUSES

WEST OF CHESAPEAKE BAY

By ADDISON F. WORTHINGTON

WE can picture details of luxury surrounding Maryland's bachelor governor at Whitehall. His contemporaries at Mt. Airy down on the Rappahannock must have had their share too; likewise at Rosewell on the York, and at Westover on the James. However, it is safe to say that the life of the average planter was hardly more than one of simple and plain abundance.

Almost from the beginning the Marylanders and Virginians were lovers of the soil. Towns as centers of social and political life were few. Indians as a rule had been friendly, and it was safe for settlers to take up grants along the innumerable rivers, where land was most fertile and where tobacco could be shipped off so readily from private wharves.

This planter life weakened the political spirit that knits men together for a common purpose, and developed a strong sense of individual freedom. The family, with its slaves and indentured servants, was the center of all interests—a self-contained community. Soon families for miles around were connected by intermarriage, and a sort of aristocracy sprang up—a democratic aristocracy. Men began to live easier, more expansive lives; had time for boundless hospitality, horse-racing, good clothes, books, plate, and even family portraits. But there were few extravagances; men had gained sound judgment, substantial information, and varied capacities in administering their extensive affairs and in keeping in touch with London merchants.

There is no better evidence of this general solidarity of character than that found in the old homes that remain. Some of them are still stubbornly resisting change in that most attractive life shaped long ago by the rivers which gave them intercommunication and an outlet to England.

The houses, which often possess just the amount of architectural elements to relieve them from dulness, are a naive version of the Renaissance, and owe their general excellence to English tradition. Men were imbued with the principles of good building and had a right sense of materials. There was a strongly marked insistence on a symmetrical arrangement of features, but the influence of Palladianism was not overwhelming. There is a quaint character which one rarely finds as a result of design. This applies especially to the smaller houses, to which class most of those here reproduced belong.

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HOUSE ON ST. MARY'S RIVER, MARYLAND

HOUSE ON ST. MARY'S RIVER, MARYLAND

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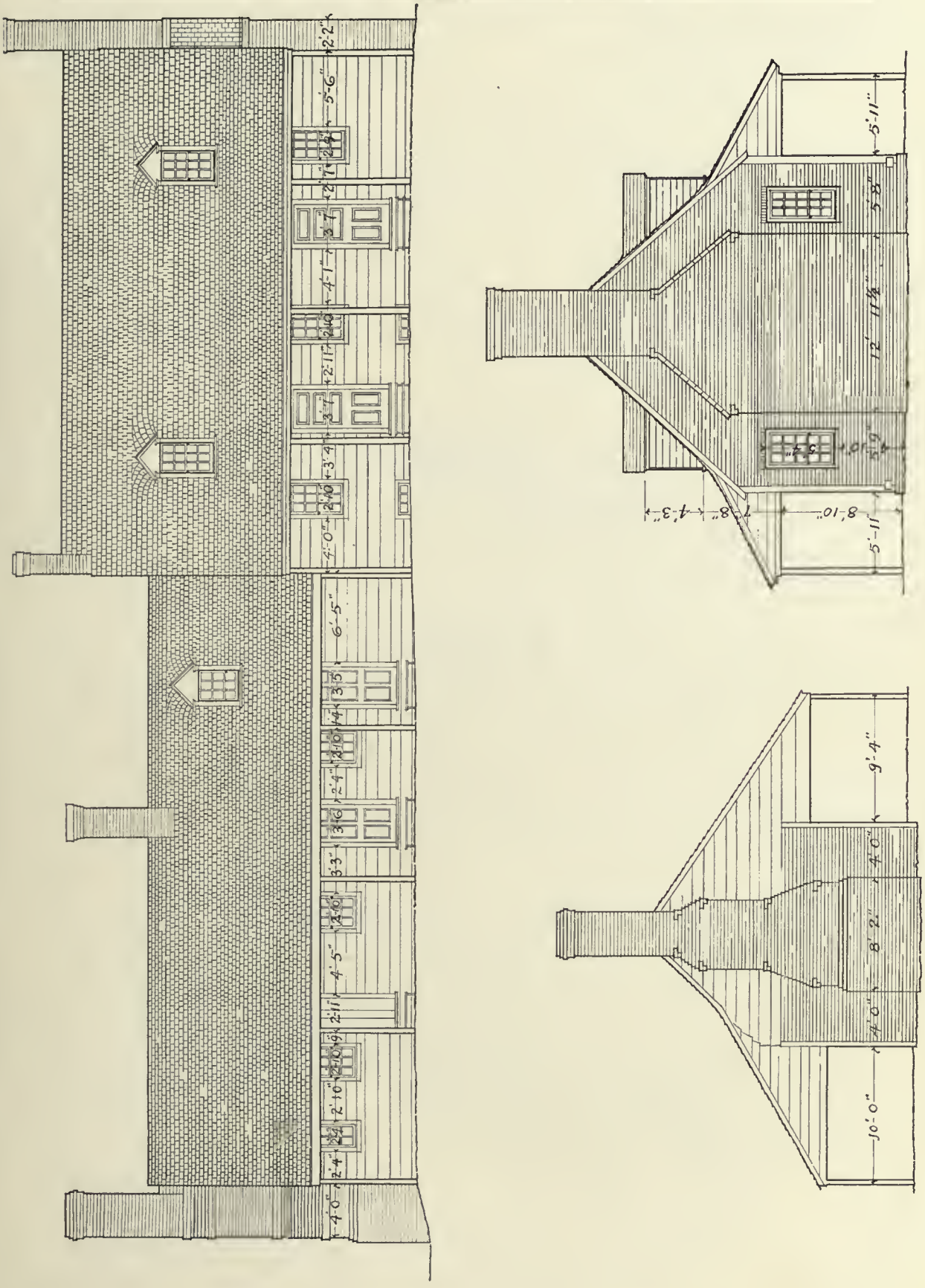
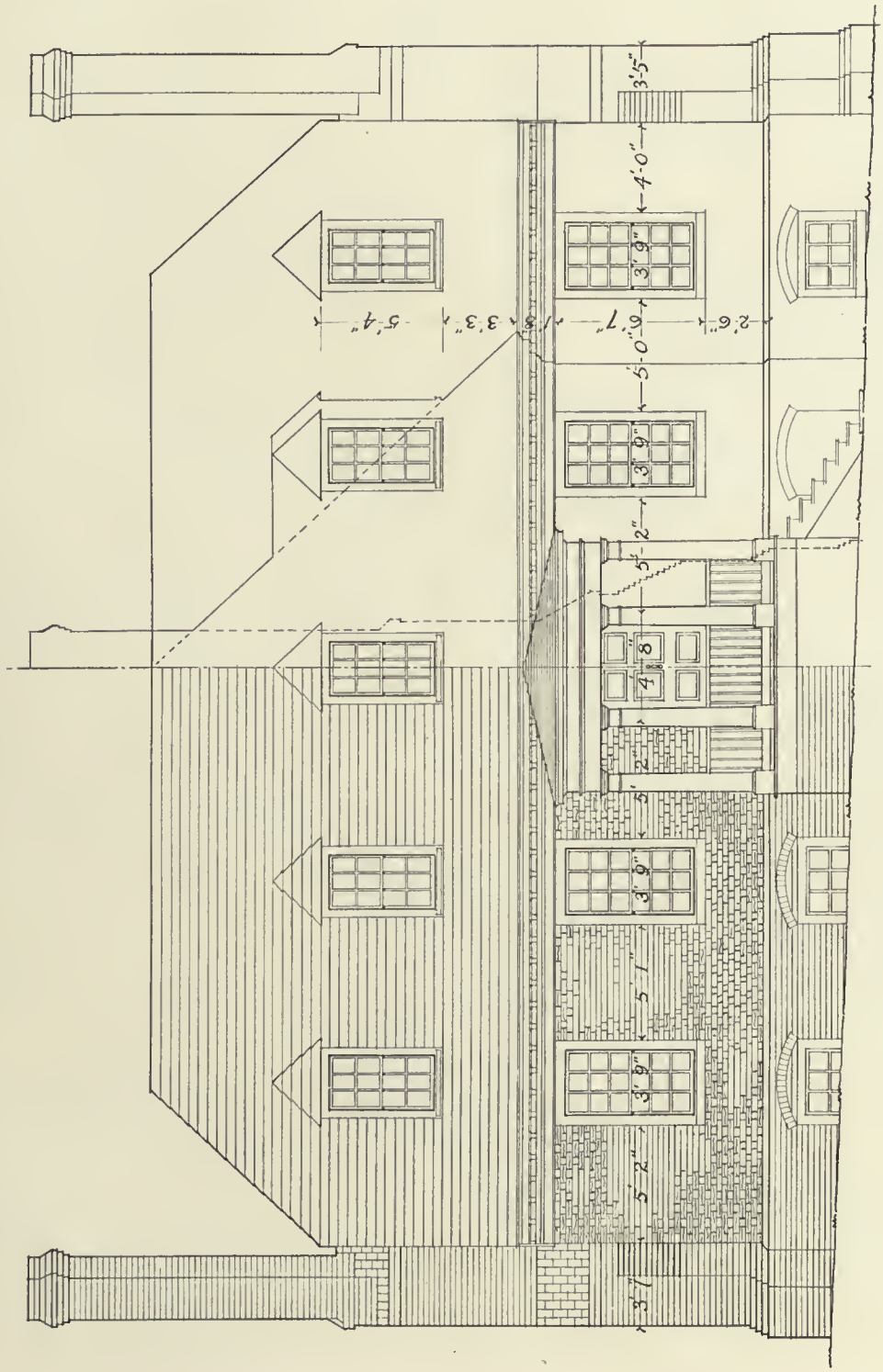


FRONT AND END ELEVATIONS, HOUSE ON ST. MARY'S RIVER, MARYLAND

MEASURED AND DRAWN BY ADDISON F. WORTHINGTON

SCALE: THREE THIRTY-SECONDS OF AN INCH EQUALS ONE FOOT

THE OLDEST HOUSE IN YORKTOWN, VIRGINIA



FRONT ELEVATION, THE OLDEST HOUSE IN YORKTOWN, VIRGINIA

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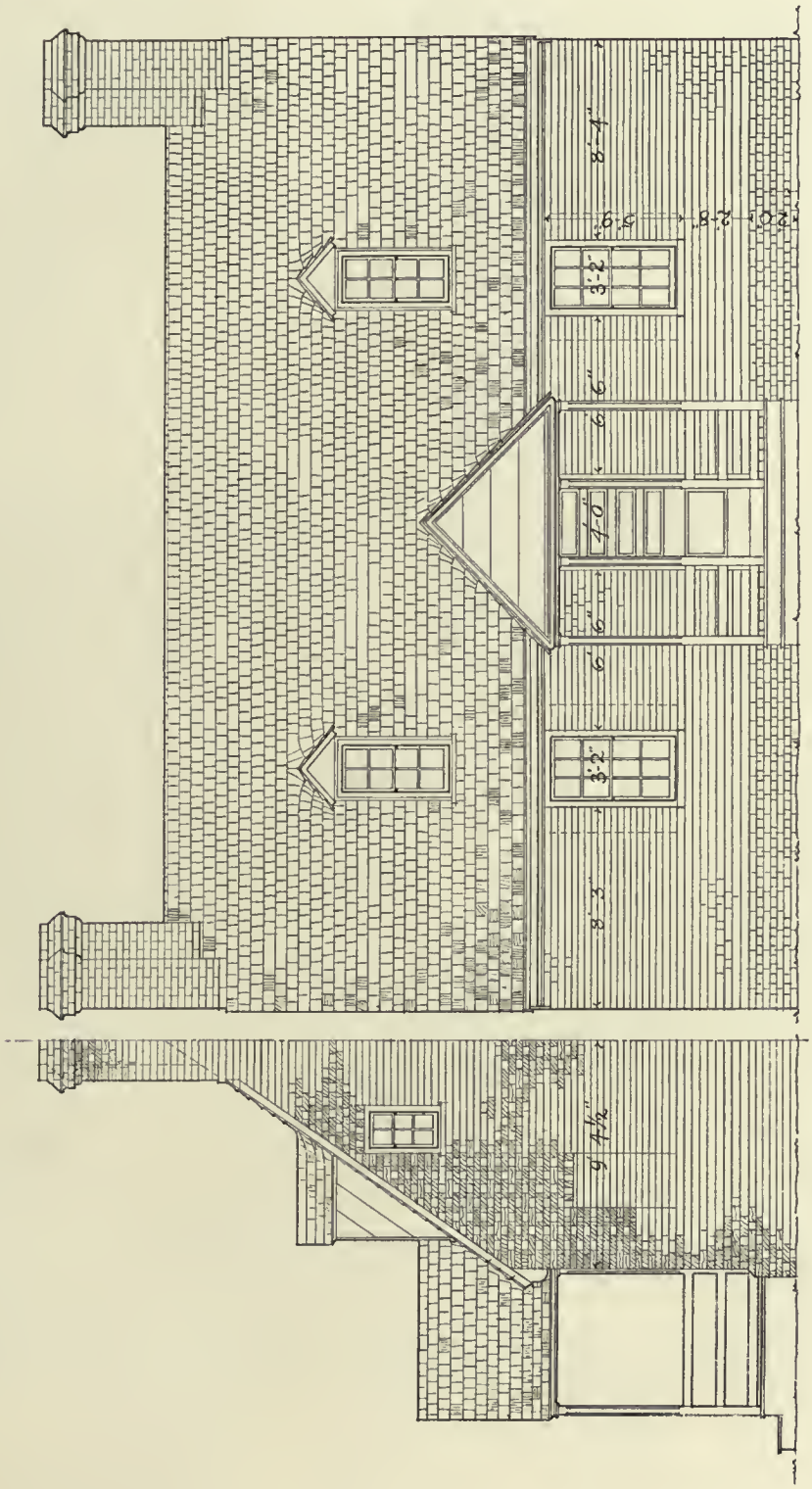
"KIS KIS KIACK" ON THE YORK RIVER, YORK COUNTY, VIRGINIA



HALF END AND FRONT ELEVATIONS, "KIS KIS KIACK" ON THE YORK RIVER, YORK COUNTY, VIRGINIA

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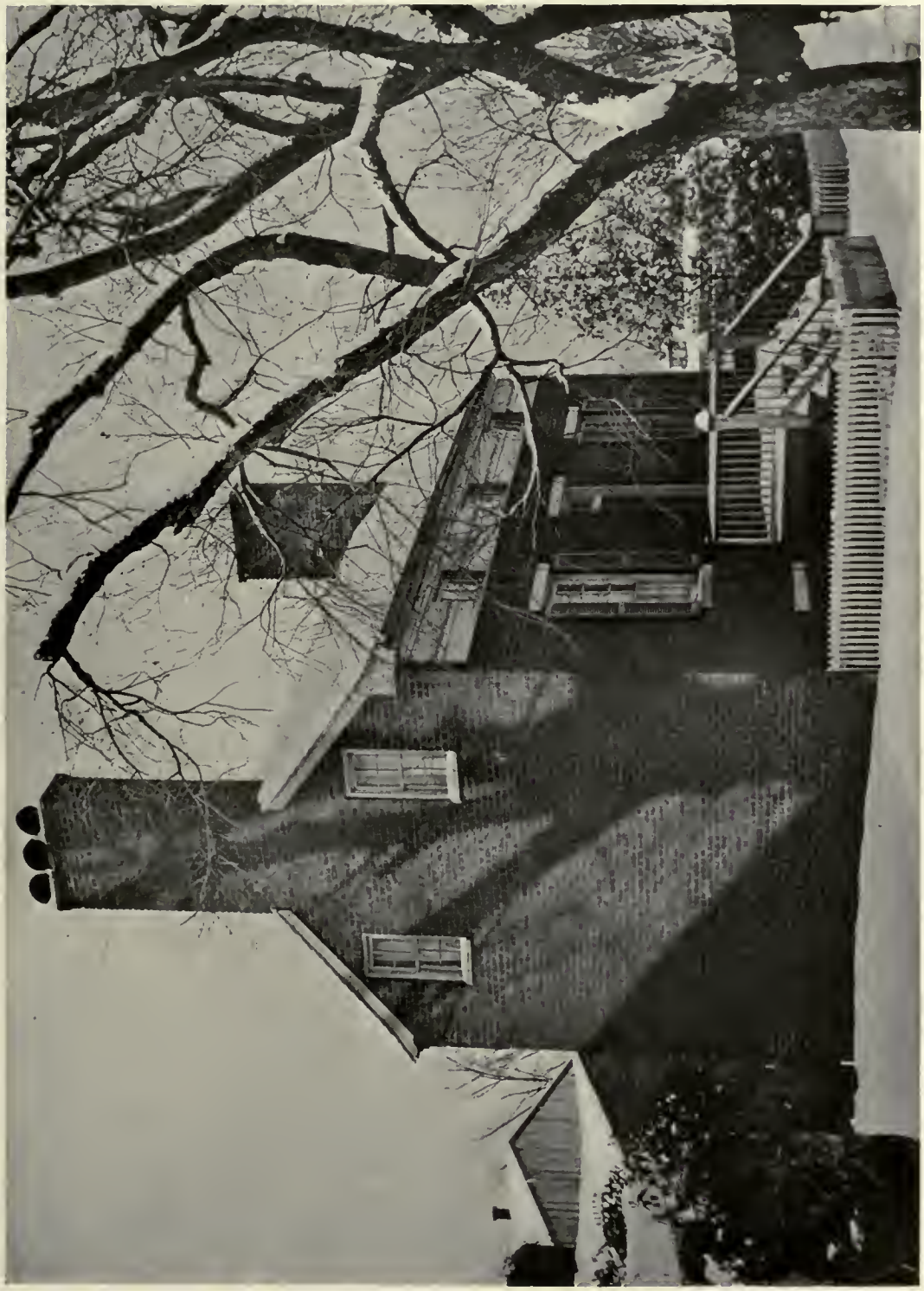
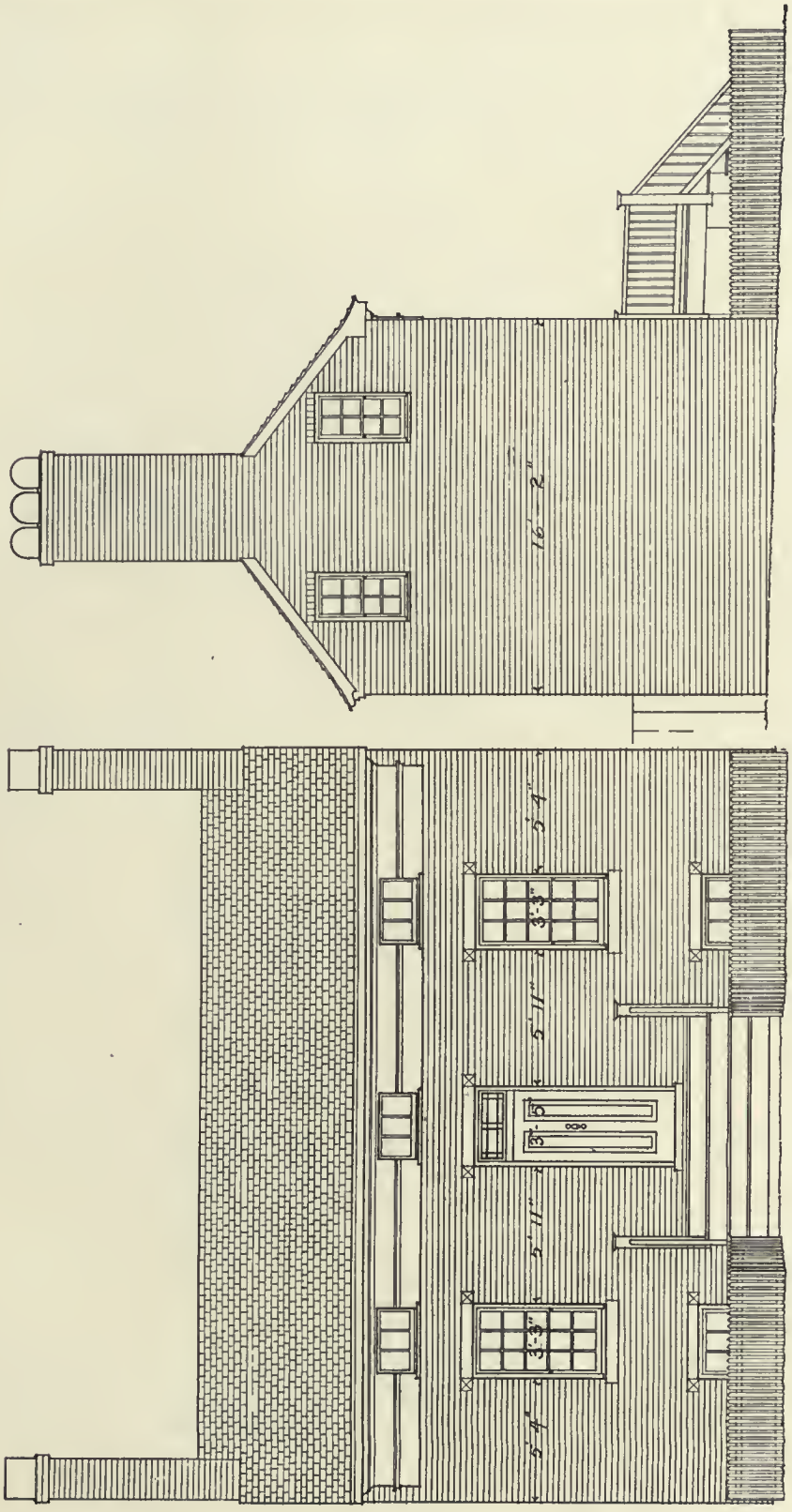


HOUSE ON PRINCESS ANNE STREET, FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA



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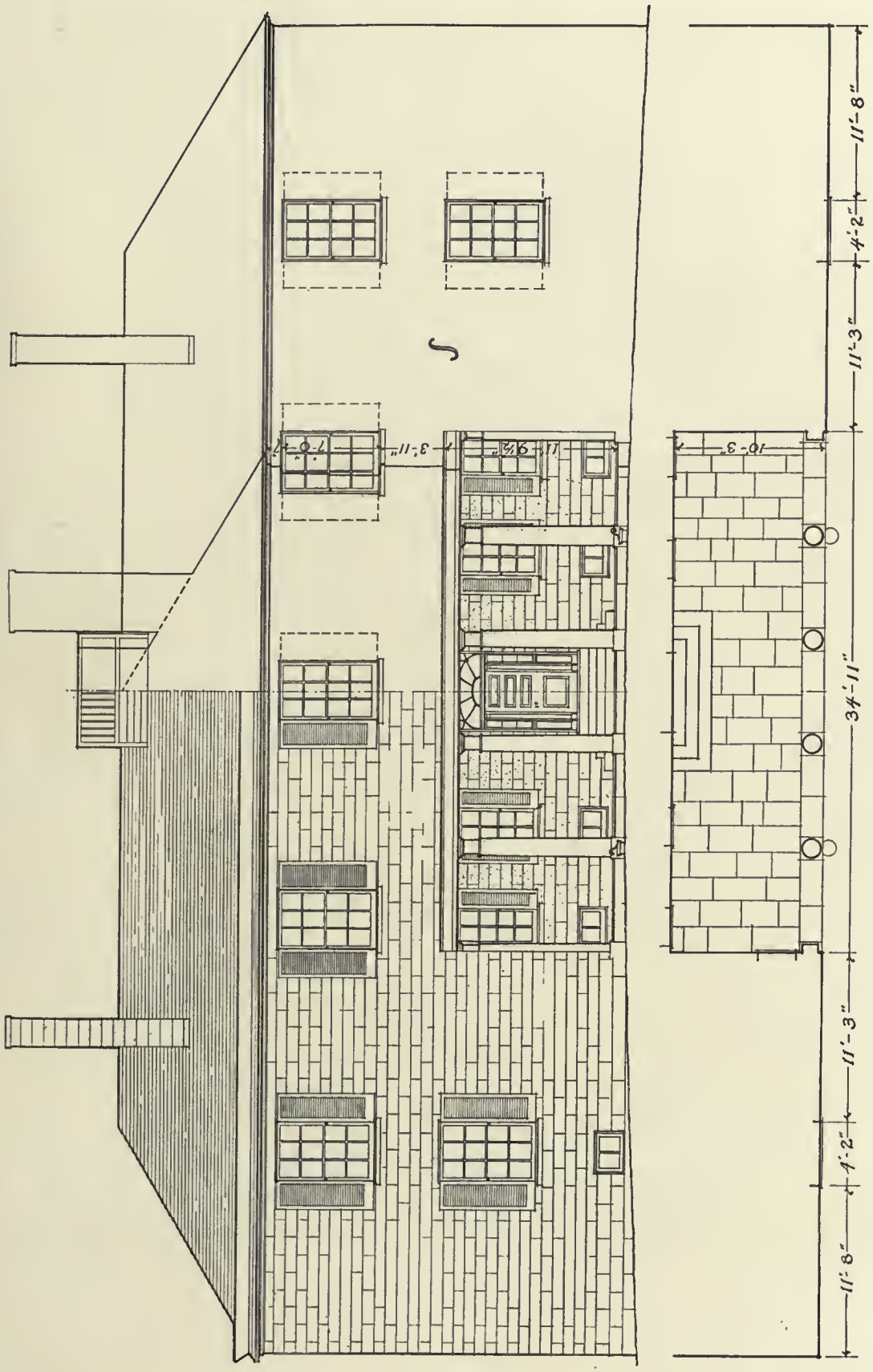
"TUDOR HALL," LEONARDTOWN, MARYLAND



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LEONARDTOWN, MARYLAND
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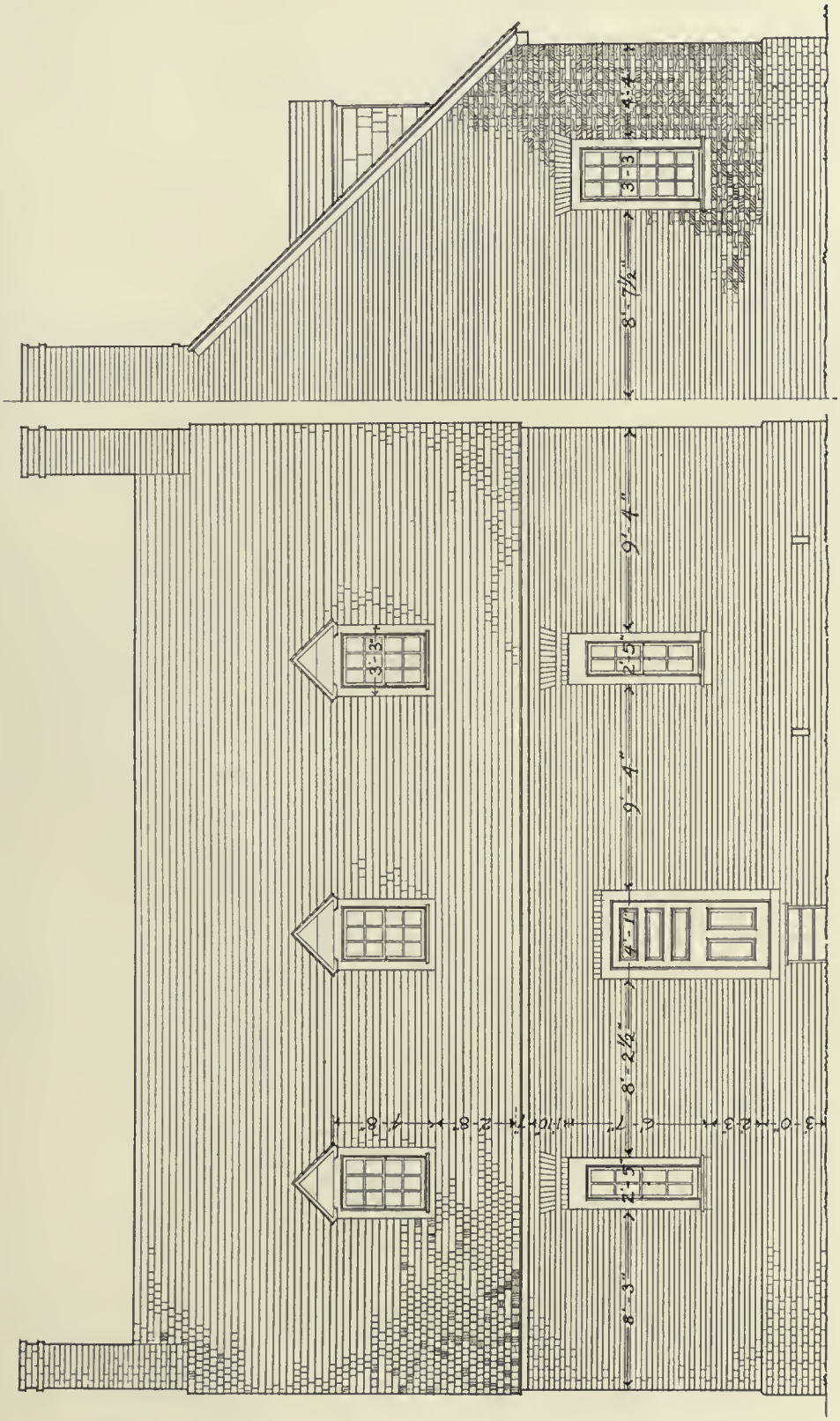
HOUSE ON THE PATUXENT RIVER, ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND



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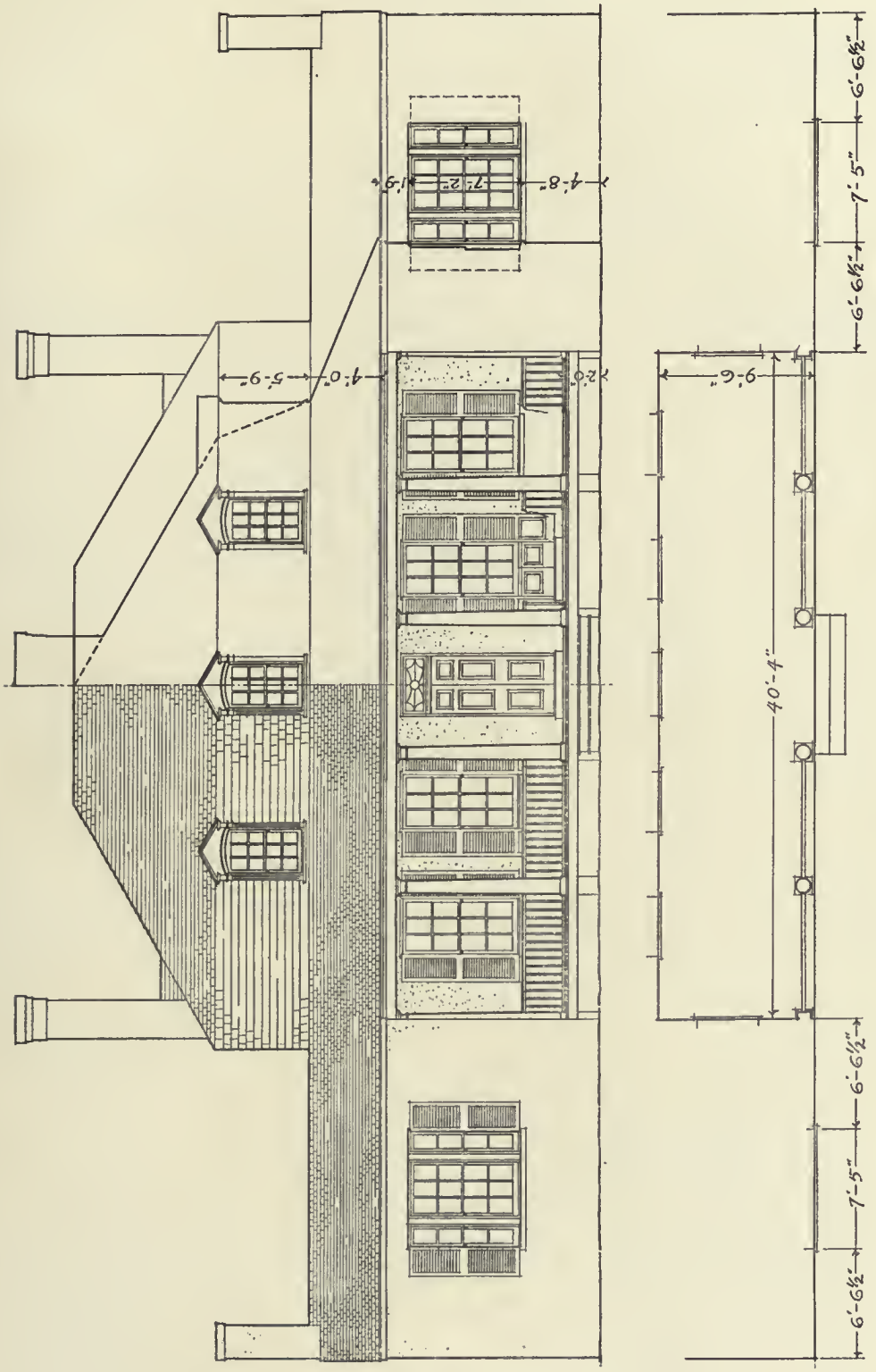
"THE PLAINS" ON THE PATUXENT RIVER, ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND



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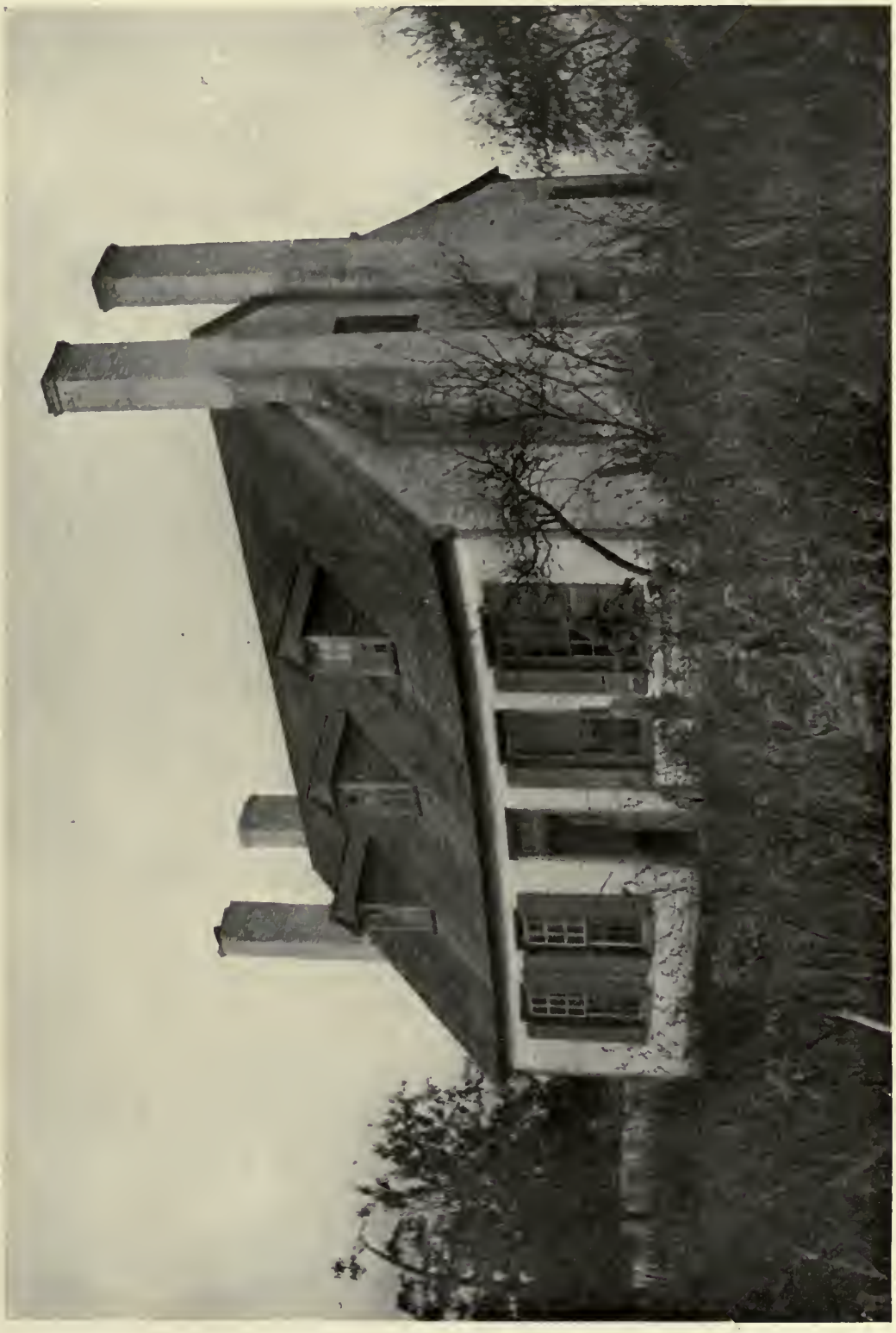
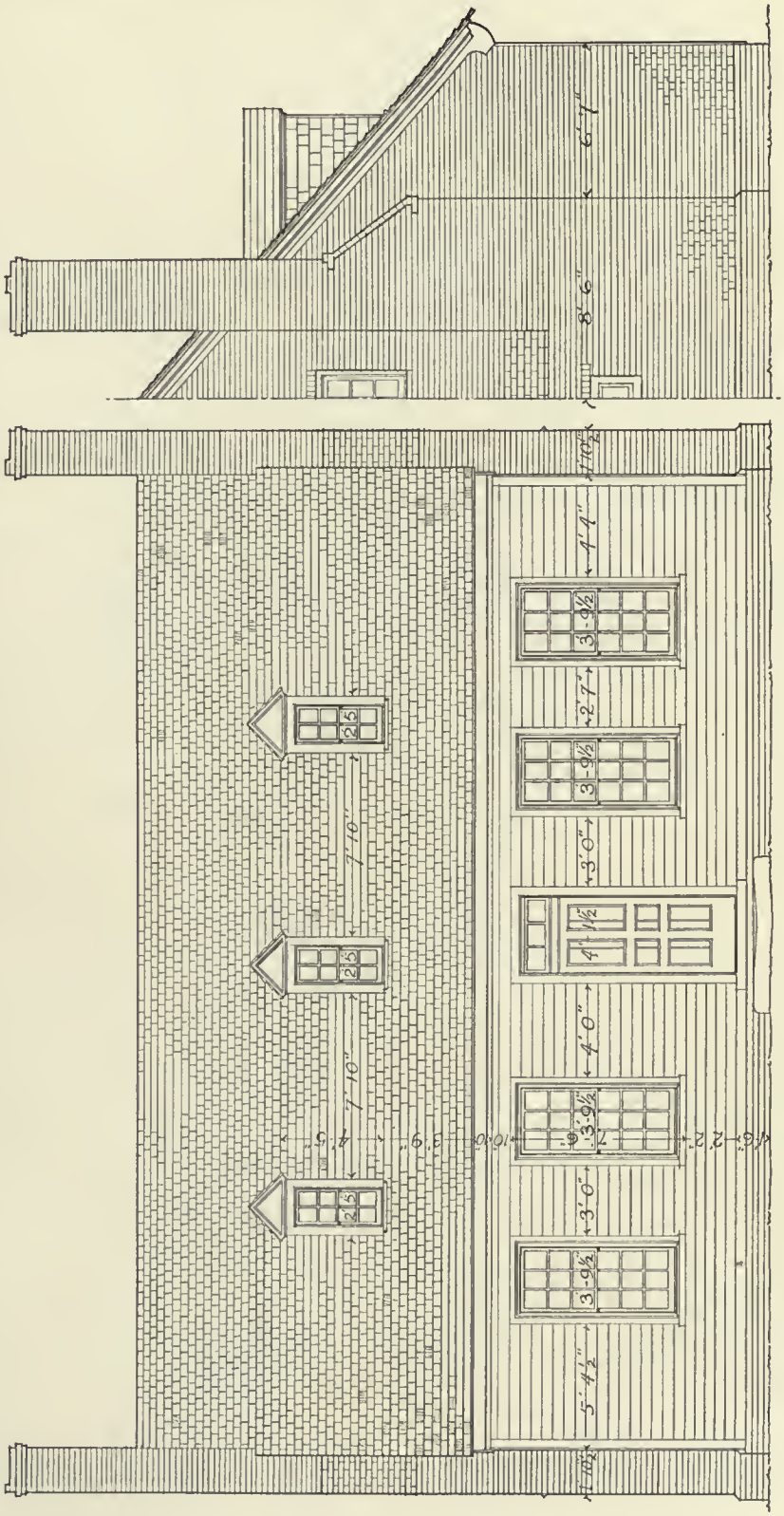


HOUSE ON ST. MARY'S RIVER, MARYLAND



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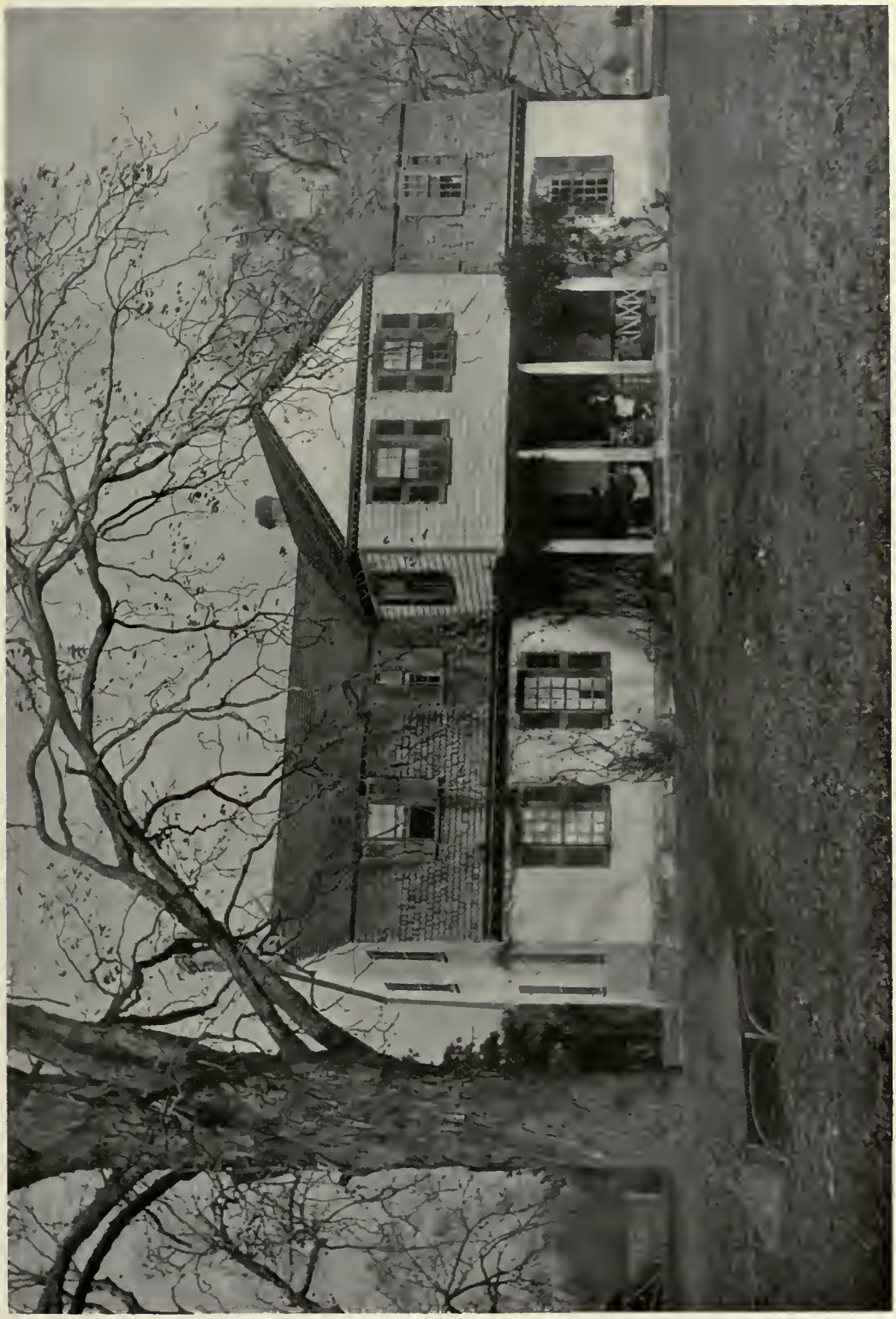
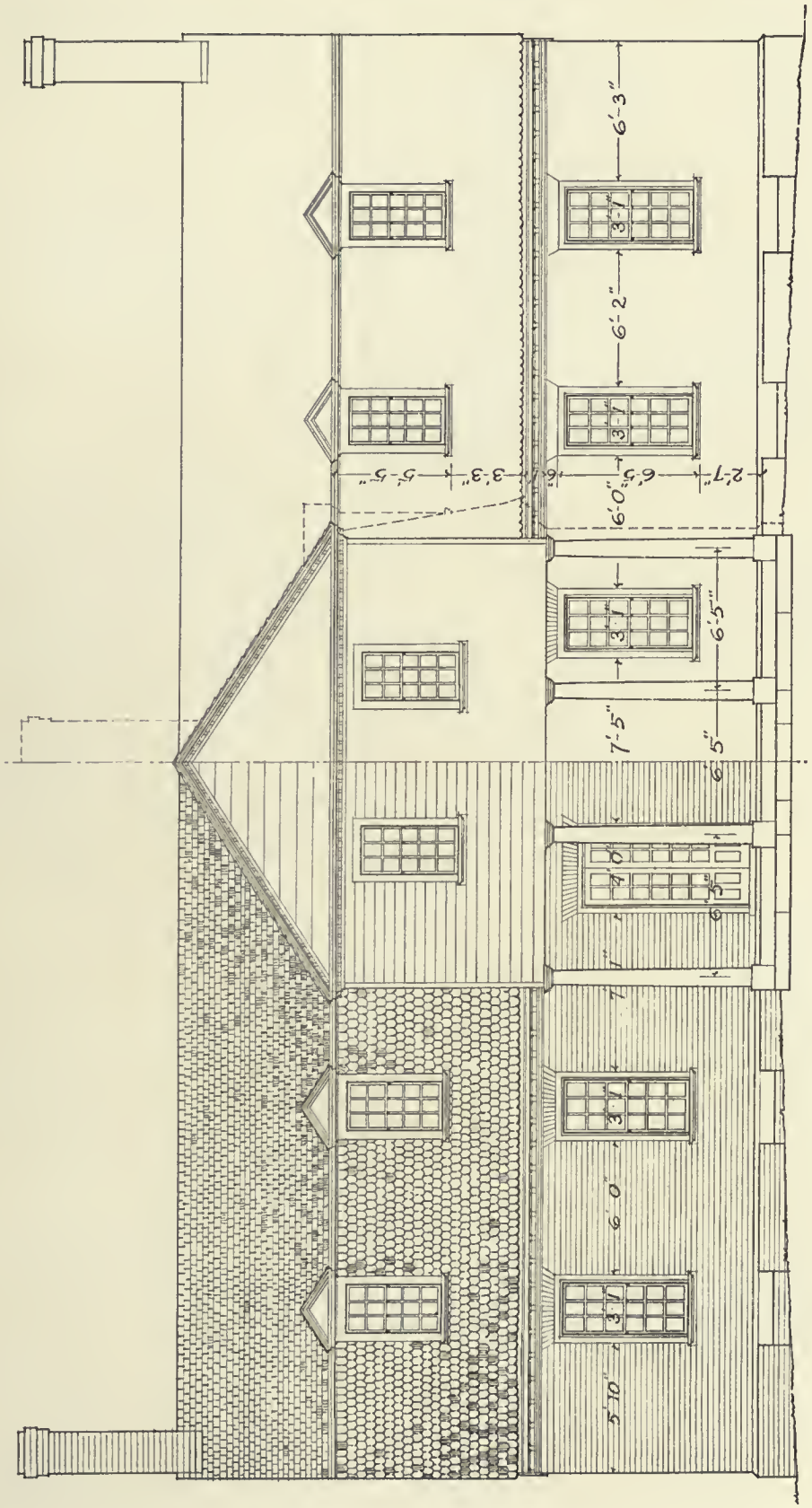


"TODDSBURY" ON THE NORTH RIVER, GLOUCESTER COUNTY, VIRGINIA



FRONT ELEVATION, "TODDSBURY" ON THE NORTH RIVER, GLOUCESTER COUNTY, VIRGINIA

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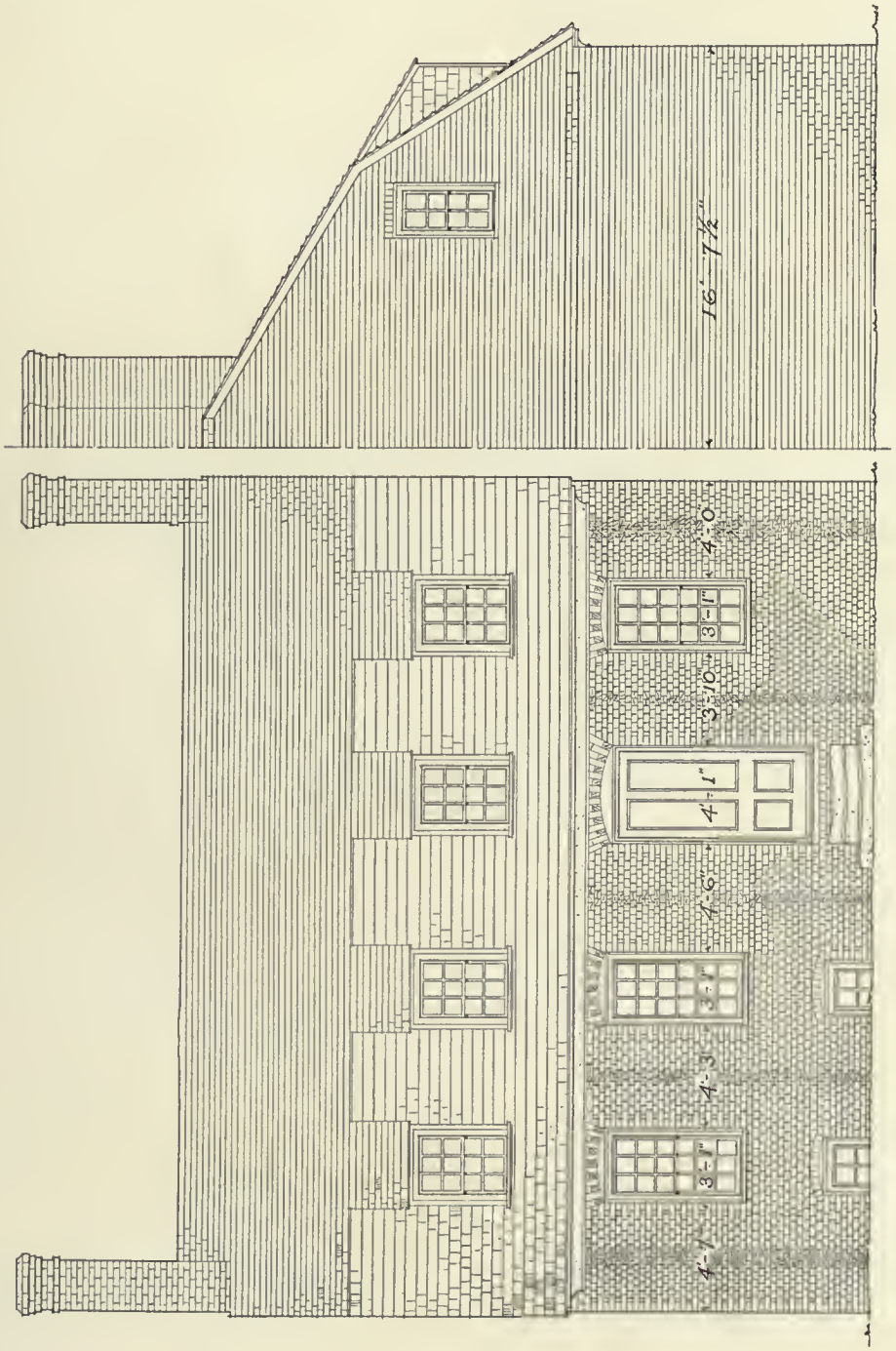
"LARKIN'S HILL" ON THE RHODES RIVER, ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND



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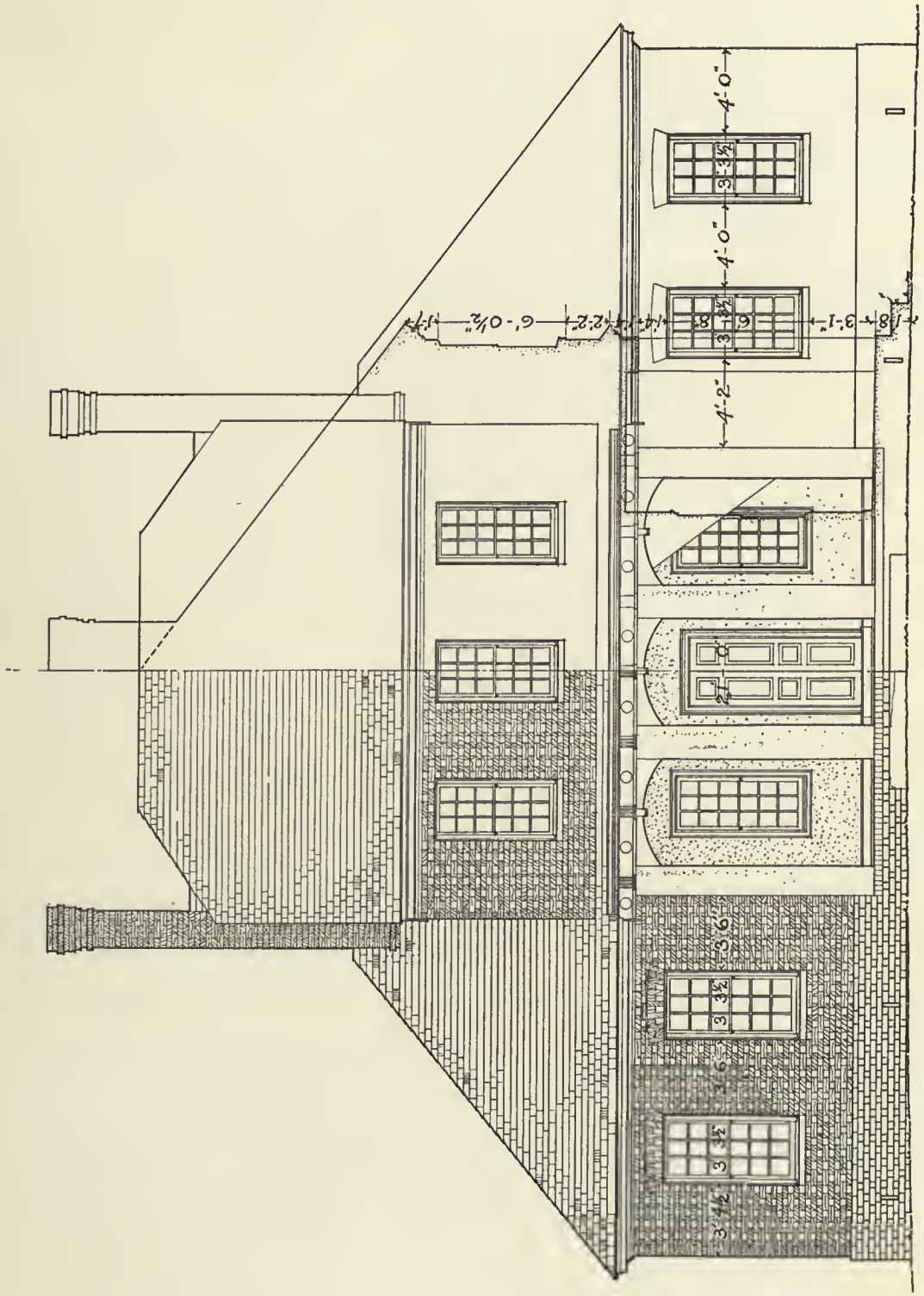
"BACHELOR'S HOPE," CHAPTICO BAY, ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND



FRONT ELEVATION, "BACHELOR'S HOPE," CHAPTICO BAY,
ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
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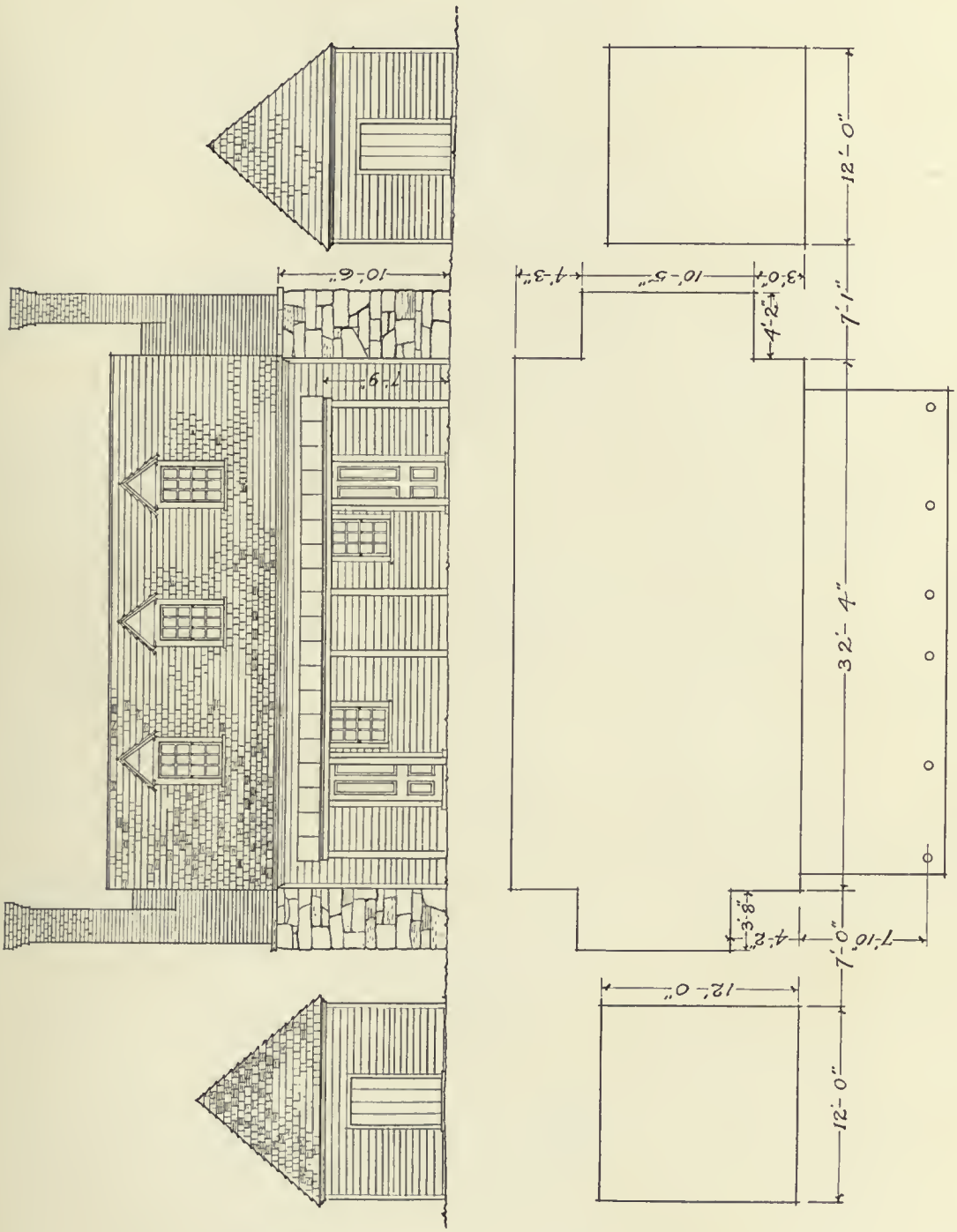
HOUSE AT FALMOUTH ON THE RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER,
STAFFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA



FRONT ELEVATION AND PLAN, HOUSE AT FALMOUTH ON THE RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER, STAFFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

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